



*The following projects submitted by the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area have been certified by the Secretary of Interior as eligible to receive Centennial Initiative matching grants in fiscal year's 2008 and 2009.*

## Education

### **Establish Gateway Interagency Visitor Center at New Gillette Ranch Property**

Location: Los Angeles County

Partner: Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Total Cost: \$8.4 million

**Summary:** The historic Gillette Ranch property was purchased in April 2005 by the National Park Service, California State Parks (CSP), and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) to serve as gateway information and operations center for the Santa Monica Mountains NRA. A new interagency visitor center will be established in a historic building at the site to provide visitors with accessible information about local, state, and federal parklands and their respective resources, use opportunities, and management issues. High quality interpretive exhibits are needed to appropriately convey the national recreation area's themes, and to share with 35 million annual visitors in one facility the various agency missions, critical resource issues, and mutual goals and objectives with the public.

### **Provide Outdoor Education Programs for 10,000 Urban Youth**

Location: Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

Partner: Los Angeles Unified School District

Total Cost: \$53,000

**Summary:** This project provides services, supplies, materials and transportation for 10,000 students from schools located in under served communities in Greater Los Angeles so they can participate in one or more of the park's five curriculum-based programs. These programs introduce students to the mission and role of the National

Park Service in conserving our natural and cultural heritage while providing for enjoyment of nature. For the majority of students, it is their first experience in nature. Students interact with park rangers in exploring a variety of places, people, and events that are represented in our national park system. The exploration is "hands on" and fosters deep, emotional and intellectual connections that bring classroom curriculum to life.

## Stewardship

### **Provide Stewardship Experience for Urban Youth through Watershed Restoration Activity**

Location: Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

Partner: California Coastal Conservancy

Total Cost: \$173,398

**Summary:** This proposal provides funding support for EcoHelpers, a service learning program that restores natural watersheds in the Santa Monica Mountains. Over 2,000 high school students throughout Greater Los Angeles participate in the program annually. Students work with park biologists and teachers to remove invasive plants and restore native habitat for wildlife. The program connects classroom theory and curriculum to field applications that promote long-term learning and stewardship of natural resources. Students also gain service learning credits needed to meet graduation requirements. For most students, it is their first experience in nature.

### **Restore Steelhead Trout Habitat in Solstice Canyon**

Location: Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

Partner: California Coastal Conservancy

Total Cost: \$137,366

**Summary:** Solstice Canyon has been identified as one of the most important stream habitats for recovery of federally endangered steelhead trout in southern California. The National Park Service and California Coastal Conservancy, among many other state and local organizations, are working to restore stream conditions that support re-introduction of steelhead trout. Project work includes restoring four acres of disturbed watershed conditions with native riparian vegetation. Educational exhibits will be installed to describe steelhead trout ecology and restoration activities for over 45,000 annual visitors to the area.

## **Conserve Mountain Lions in Santa Monica Mountains**

Location: Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

Partner: Santa Monica Mountains Fund

Total Cost: \$150,000

**Summary:** Santa Monica Mountains encompass a mosaic of land uses across Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Like many parts of southern California, the region is highly fragmented, with parklands and natural habitats interspersed with developed areas and roads. These human intrusions present a myriad of threats to wildlife, including elimination of wildlife movement corridors, potential collisions with vehicles, and exposure to urban toxins. The purpose of this project is to determine how mountain lions survive in this environment by evaluating their distribution, movement patterns, behavior, and survivorship. Information from this project will be used to promote mountain lion conservation in the mountains and similar urban interface areas.

# **Environmental Leadership**

## **Deadly Urban Impacts: Understand and Reduce the Poisoning of Wildlife**

Location: Los Angeles and Ventura Counties

Partners: Western National Parks Association, UC Davis, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

Total Cost: \$60,000

**Summary:** Wildlife in and around the Santa Monica Mountains are being unintentional exposed to a variety of urban toxins. The use of household rodenticides containing anticoagulant poisons have been particularly troubling due to their long active life and affect on non-targeted wildlife in the food chain. The National Park Service and other environmental protection and public health organizations are just beginning to understand the adverse consequences. This project will determine the sources of anticoagulant poisons, analyze their affects on non-target wildlife, and generate recommendations for mitigating adverse impacts.